

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 01392 071630Z

15

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 STR-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 OMB-01 INT-05 /049 W

----- 070570

R 071605Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8413

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, EMIN, TS

SUBJ: NPK DISPUTE WITH GOT RE EXPORT TAX

REF: STATE 31070; TUNIS 760

1. LAWRENCE ODENCE OF FREEPORT MINERALS, DURING BRIEF VISIT IN TUNISIA TO ATTEND NPK BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FEB 25, INFORMED EMBASSY THAT NPK PLANS TO OFFICIALLY INFORM GOT THAT IT BELIEVES THAT TEMPORARY "LEVY" ON PRODUCTION OF TRIPLE SUPER PHOSPHATE IS EQUIVALENT TO TAX WHICH WOULD BE CONTRARY TO NPK'S BASIC CONVENTION. FROM CONVERSATIONS NPK HAS ALREADY HAD WITH GOT OFFICIALS, ODENCE SAID THAT NPK ANTICIPATES THAW GOT WILL NOT AGREE TO THIS POSITION. AT THAT TIME, ODENCE SAID NPK MAY ASK SWEDISH GOVERNMENT TO MAKE OFFICIAL DEMARCHE TO GOT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT IFC REP HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN DISCUSSING RAMIFICATIONS OF SITUATION WITH VARIOUS HIGH TUNISIAN OFFICIALS AND MIGHT BE ABLE USE PRESTIGE AS INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION TO WORK OUT SATISFACTORY SOLUTION.

2. EMBOFF TOLD ODENCE THAT EMBASSY HAD HAD OCCASION TO RAISE MATTER INFORMALLY WITH SEVERAL TOP TUNISIAN OFFICIALS DURING RECENT VISITS. THIS HAD SERVED TO CONVEY THAT
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 01392 071630Z

EMBASSY WAS AWARE OF AND CONCERNED OVER POTENTIAL CONFLICT

WITH AMERICAN FIRM WHICH HAD INVESTED IN TUNISIA.
ODENCE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EMBASSY EFFORT.

3. ODENCE ALSO NOTED THAT NPK BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAD
DECLARED SIZABLE DIVIDEND TO STOCKHOLDERS AS RESULT OF
1974 OPERATIONS WHICH, FOR FIRST TIME SINCE NPK BEGAN
PRODUCTION IN 1965, SHOWED PROFIT RATHER THAN LOSS.
ODENCE SAID THAT AT PRESENT TIME HIS COMPANY DID NOT
EXPECT USG TO MAKE FURTHER OFFICIAL DEMARCHE UNTIL
OTHER CHANNELS HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED. HE NOTED THAT
COMPANY OFFICIAL PAUL DOUGLAS WOULD BE VISITING TUNISIA
IN NEAR FUTURE AT WHICH TIME HE WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS
MATTER FURTHER WITH EMBASSY.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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